

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment and the following remarks are intended to fully respond to the Office Action dated September 8, 2004. In that Office Action, claims 1-37 were examined, and all claims were rejected. More specifically, claims 1-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hara et al. (USPN 6,199,111) and Ote et al. (USPN 6,199,180). Reconsideration of these rejections, as they might apply to the original and amended claims in view of these remarks, is respectfully requested.

In this Response, claims 1, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 33, 34, and 35 have been amended; no new claims have been added; and claim 18 has been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-17 and 19-37 remain present for examination.

Interview Summary

Examiner, Mr. Adnan Mirza, and Applicants' representative, Mr. Tadd Wilson, conducted a telephonic interview on November 2, 2004. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his time and effort. The Examiner and Applicants' representative discussed the cited prior art and the present invention. Examiner made some suggested amendments, which are reflected in the amended claims provided above.

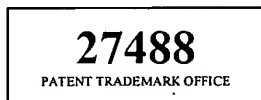
Conclusion

It is believed that no further fees are due with this Response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

In light of the above remarks and amendments it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request the application be allowed and pass to issuance as soon as possible. Should any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to resolve those issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/7/04



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tadd F. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tadd F. Wilson, Reg. No. 54,544
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
303.357.1651